



The
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FREE TAX PREPARATION BEGINS AT LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT INDIANAPOLIS

INDIANAPOLIS -- Free tax preparation has begun at 16 sites throughout Indianapolis. This year, the city received a \$90,000 boost in funding through a grant provided by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as part of the agency's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

The goal for 2010 is to complete 5,000 tax preparations. Last year over 3,400 tax returns were completed. Partners in this effort include the City of Indianapolis, Indy's Campaign for Financial Fitness, and the Indianapolis Asset Building Coalition.

Volunteers are crucial to free tax preparation efforts and spend many hours becoming certified. First Lady Winnie Ballard will also be preparing taxes at various locations throughout the city.

"The VITA grant significantly improves our ability as a community to provide free tax preparation for eligible Indianapolis residents," said Indianapolis First Lady Winnie Ballard. "I was one of many volunteers during last year's tax season who prepared individual tax returns at each tax site, and it was a great experience to see first-hand the profound effect this assistance has on families in our community. I am looking forward to another great season."

In order to qualify for free tax preparation, an individual must make \$20,000 or less each year or \$49,000 or less each year with dependents. For more information on site locations, days and hours of operation, or volunteer opportunities, please call 2-1-1 or visit United Way of Central Indiana's website at www.uwci.org.